

I CLAIM:

1. An animal feeder comprising:

a feed storage area including one or more shelves, each selectively supported in a feed-containing orientation by a movable shelf support; and

5 a controller configured to direct movement of each shelf support in accordance with a selected feed schedule, such movement accommodating selected release of corresponding shelves to effect delivery of feed contained by such shelves in accordance with the selected feed schedule.

10 2. The animal feeder of claim 1, wherein the shelves are vertically stacked, each shelf being pivotal upon movement of a corresponding shelf support to effect release of feed contained by the shelf.

15 3. The animal feeder of claim 2, wherein the vertically stacked shelves are contained within an upright housing and are allowed to pivot successively, from bottom to top, to progressively define a feed chute through which released feed is delivered to a feed area below.

20 4. The animal feeder of claim 1, wherein each shelf support is retractable upon receipt of an signal from the controller.

5. The animal feeder of claim 1, wherein each shelf support is solenoid-activated upon receipt of a signal from the controller.

6. The animal feeder of claim 1, wherein the controller includes a clock, and
5 the feed schedule defines a clock time for release of each shelf.

7. The animal feeder of claim 6, which further comprises a user interface, and wherein the feed schedule is entered by a user via the user interface.

10 8. The animal feeder of claim 1, wherein the controller includes a timer, the feed schedule being defined by a timer interval indicating time between release of shelves.

9. The animal feeder of claim 1, wherein the shelves are horizontally
15 stacked, each shelf being pivotal upon movement of a corresponding shelf support to effect release of feed contained by the shelf.

10. An automated animal feeder, comprising:

a storage housing having a closed top and an open bottom, wherein at least a portion of the storage housing is disposed above a feed area;

5 a plurality of feed storage bins defined in the storage housing, each storage bin including a shelf hingedly coupled with the storage housing, the shelf having a hinged end and a free end, wherein the free end is releasable to drop feed from the shelf into the feed area;

a user interface configured to allow a user to input a feeding schedule; and

10 a controller configured to release each shelf according to the input feeding schedule.